

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
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Application Number	10/680,139
Confirmation Number	5094
Filing Date	October 08, 2003
First Named Inventor	Nobuhiko FUJIMORI
Art Unit	1755
Examiner Name	NOT YET ASSIGNED
Attorney Docket Number	Q77819

[illegible]

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	JS	DE	100 32 515	A1	01-18-2001	Hitachi Metals, Ltd.	NO
	JS	WO	01/24202	A1	04-12-2001	Vacuumschmelze GMBH*	Abstract
	JS	JP	7-57914		03-03-1995	Hitachi Metals, Ltd.	Abstract
	JS	JP	11-214216		08-06-1999	Hitachi Metals, Ltd.	Abstract
	JS	JP	9-275004		10-21-1997	Daido Steel Co., Ltd	Abstract
		*Corresponds with DE 199 45 943 6 (09-24-1999)n					

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Examiner Signature

/John Sheehan/ (06/01/2006)

Date Considered

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
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		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁴
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ² (if known)			
JS		JP	09-027409		01-28-1997	Hitachi Metals Ltd.	Abstract
JS		JP	05-182813		07-23-1993	Shin Etsu Chem Co., Ltd.	Abstract
JS		JP	60-027105		02-12-1985	Sumitomo Special Metals Co., Ltd.	Abstract
JS		JP	59-163803		09-14-1984	Sumitomo Special Metals Co., Ltd.	Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁴

Examiner Signature

/John Sheehan/ (06/01/2006)

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.